GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
ABSTRACT

Public Services – BC Welfare Department – Smt.Khushbu Kothari, the then District BC Welfare Officer, Eluru, WG District and presently working as Deputy Director(BCW), Chittoor District- Departmental proceedings under Rule 20 of Andhra Pradesh Civil Services (Classification, Control & Appeal) Rules, 1991 - Article of Charge – Orders – Issued.

BACKWARD CLASSES WELFARE (D) DEPARTMENT

G.O.Rt.No.94 **Dated.09-06-2022.**
Read the following:

-:0:-

ORDER:

It is proposed to hold an inquiry against Smt.Khushbu Kothari, the then District BC Welfare Officer, Eluru, WG District and presently working as Deputy Director(BCW), Chittoor District in accordance with the procedure laid down in Rule 20 of Andhra Pradesh Civil Services (CC&A) Rules, 1991.

2. The substance of the imputations of misconduct or misbehavior in respect of which the enquiry is proposed to be held is set out in the enclosed statement of article of charges (Annexure-I). A list of documents by which and a list of witnesses by whom, the article of charges are proposed to be sustained are also enclosed (Annexure-II and III).

3. Smt.Khushbu Kothari, the then District BC Welfare Officer, Eluru, WG District and presently working as Deputy Director(BCW), Chittoor District, is directed to submit her written statement of defence within (10) days of the receipt of this order.

4. Smt.Khushbu Kothari, the then District BC Welfare Officer, Eluru, WG District and presently working as Deputy Director(BCW), Chittoor District, is informed that an enquiry will be held only in respect those article of charges as are not admitted. She should, therefore, specifically admit or deny each article of charge.

5. Smt.Khushbu Kothari, the then District BC Welfare Officer, Eluru, WG District and presently working as Deputy Director(BCW), Chittoor District, is further informed that if she does not submit her written statement of defence on or before the period specified in para-3 above or otherwise fails or refuses to comply with the provisions of Rule 20 of Andhra Pradesh Civil Services (Classification, Control & Appeal) Rules, 1991 or the orders directions issued in pursuance of the said rules, the Inquiring Authority may hold the inquiry against her ex-parte, based on the material available on record.

6. Smt.Khushbu Kothari, the then District BC Welfare Officer, Eluru, WG District and presently working as Deputy Director(BCW), Chittoor District, is invited to Rule 24 of the Andhra Pradesh Civil Services (Conduct) Rules, 1964, under which no Government servant shall bring or attempt to bring any political or outside influence to bear upon any superior authority to further her interest in respect of matter pertaining to her service under the Government. If any representation is received on her behalf from another person in respect of any matter dealt with these proceedings it will be presumed that she is aware of such a representation and that it has been made at her instance and action will be taken against her for violation of rule 24 of Andhra Pradesh Civil Services (Conduct) Rules, 1964.

(P.T.O)

7. The receipt of this G.O. shall be acknowledged.

(BY ORDER AND IN THE NAME OF THE GOVERNOR OF ANDHRA PRADESH)

G.ANANTHA RAMU
SPECIAL CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

To
Smt.Khushbu Kothari, the then District BC Welfare Officer, Eluru, WG District and presently working as Deputy Director(BCW), Chittoor District "through" the Director of BC Welfare, A.P., Vijayawada.
The Director of BC Welfare, A.P., Vijayawada. (with a request to serve this order and return the acknowledged copy and Written Statement of Defense)
Copy to the District Collector, West Godavari District, Eluru.
SF/SC

//FORWARDED :: BY ORDER//

SECTION OFFICER

[Annexure to G.O.Rt.No.94, BCW(D) Dept., Dt.09.06.2022]

ANNEXURE –I

STATEMENT SHOWING THE ARTICLE OF CHARGE AGAINST SMT.KHUSHBU KOTHARI, THE THEN DISTRICT BC WELFARE OFFICER, ELURU, WG DISTRICT AND PRESENTLY WORKING AS DEPUTY DIRECTOR(BCW), CHITTOOR DISTRICT:-

While working as District B.C. Welfare Officer, Eluru, WG District, Smt.Khushbu Kothari has committed the following grave misconduct in as much as:

ARTICLE OF CHARGE:1

That Smt.Khushbu Kothari, the then District BC Welfare Officer, Eluru, WG District and presently working as Deputy Director(BCW), Chittoor District, has collected bribe of Rs.18/- per boarder monthly from the Hostel Welfare Officers in the W.G. District.

BASIS OF CHARGE:

The Collector & District Magistrate, West Godavari, Eluru, vide letter dt.03.04.2020, has reported that, the President & Secretary, Hostel Welfare Officers Association, WG District, vide complaint petition dt.01.02.2020, has complained that Smt.Khushbu Kothari, the then District BC Welfare Officer, West Godavari District that, has collected bribes from the Hostel Welfare Officers monthly Rs.18/- per boarder.

Thus the said Government servant has violated/ contravened Rule 3(1) (2) & (5) of AP Civil Service (Conduct) Rules, 1964.

Hence, the charge.

ARTICLE OF CHARGE:2

That Smt.Khushbu Kothari, the then District BC Welfare Officer, Eluru, WG District and presently working as Deputy Director(BCW), Chittoor District, has sold the scholarships applications and other materials worth of Rs.3,00,000/- in three lorries but paid challan only for Rs.3,000/-.

BASIS OF CHARGE:

The Collector & District Magistrate, West Godavari, Eluru, vide letter dt.03.04.2020, has reported that, the President & Secretary, Hostel Welfare Officers Association, WG District, vide complaint petition dt.01.02.2020, has complained that Smt.Khushbu Kothari, the then District BC Welfare Officer, West Godavari District has sold the scholarships applications and other materials worth of Rs.3,00,000/- in three lorries but paid challan only for Rs.3,000/-.

Thus said Government servant has violated/ contravened Rule 3(1) (2) & (5) of AP Civil Service (Conduct) Rules, 1964.

Hence, the charge.

...Cont'd on P.4

ARTICLE OF CHARGE:3

That Smt.Khushbu Kothari, the then District BC Welfare Officer, Eluru, WG District and presently working as Deputy Director(BCW), Chittoor District, has given promotions to four (4) HWOs from Grade-II to Grade-I after receiving the amount of Rs.6.00 lakhs as corruption @Rs.1.50 lakhs from each.

BASIS OF CHARGE:

The Collector & District Magistrate, West Godavari, Eluru, vide letter dt.03.04.2020, has reported that, the President & Secretary, Hostel Welfare Officers Association, WG District, vide complaint petition dt.01.02.2020, has complained that Smt.Khushbu Kothari, the then District BC Welfare Officer, West Godavari District has given promotions to four(4) HWOs from Grade-II to Grade-I after receiving the amount of Rs.6.00 lakhs as corruption @Rs.1.50 lakhs from each; and Sri P.P. Venkateswara Rao, HWO who is collected Rs.6.00 lakh, handed over the said amount to Smt.Khushbu Kothari, the then DBCWO, West Godavari Dist.

Thus the said Government servant has violated/contravened Rule 3(1) (2) & (5) of AP Civil Service (Conduct) Rules, 1964.

Hence, the charge.

ARTICLE OF CHARGE:4

That Smt.Khushbu Kothari, the then District BC Welfare Officer, Eluru, WG District and presently working as Deputy Director(BCW), Chittoor District, has not appraised the instructions of Directorate regarding judgment on 16(h) to the District Collector, when the note file was approved at District level on 17.01.2020 for giving promotions.

BASIS OF CHARGE:

The Collector & District Magistrate, West Godavari, Eluru, vide letter dt.03.04.2020, has reported that, Smt.Khushbu Kothari, the then District BC Welfare Officer, West Godavari District has not appraised the instructions of Directorate regarding judgment on 16(h) to the District Collector, when the note file was approved at District level on 17.01.2020 for giving promotions. However, there is still chance to put up file based on the latest instructions received by her on 11.01.2020. Instead, she failed to act with integrity and she casually issued proceedings and promoting the 4 HWOs from Grade-II to Grade-I based on the seniority fixed in the year 2005 and issued proceedings on 20.01.2020 and immediately, on same day, the proceedings were served to the 4 HWOs.

Thus the said Government servant has violated/contravened Rule 3(1) (2) & (5) of AP Civil Service (Conduct) Rules, 1964.

Hence, the charge.

...Cont'd on P.5

ARTICLE OF CHARGE: 5

That Smt.Khushbu Kothari, the then District BC Welfare Officer, Eluru, WG District and presently working as Deputy Director(BCW), Chittoor District, has misled the higher authorities intentionally and shown unscrupulous actions, twisting of facts and deliberate omissions in giving promotions to HWOs from Grade-II to Grade-I; and it caused District Administration an embarrassing situation for issue of cancellation orders to cancel the promotions.

BASIS OF CHARGE:

The Collector & District Magistrate, West Godavari, Eluru, vide letter dt.03.04.2020, has stated that, the Joint Collector-II, Eluru has conducted enquiry in the matter and submitted the following findings/ observations:

(i) Smt.Khushbu Kothari, the then District BC Welfare Officer, West Godavari District has created false sense of urgency, intentionally misled the District administration in getting the approval of file for effecting promotions; and her malafied intention is proved due to her actions in delivering the promotion proceedings instead of taking up recovery steps by discussing with District Collector and Director of BC Welfare to cancel the note file, approved on 17.01.2020. She has shown unusual special personal interest over the file and ensured that and it is cleared despite of all odds, without any fear and integrity.

(ii) Due to her unscrupulous actions, twisting of facts and deliberate omissions, it caused District Administration an embarrassing situation while again giving the cancellation orders to cancel the promotions.

Thus, the said Government servant has violated/ contravened Rule 3(1) (2) & (5) of AP Civil Service (Conduct) Rules, 1964.

Hence, the charge.

G.ANANTHA RAMU
SPECIAL CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

//FORWARDED :: BY ORDER//

SECTION OFFICER

[Annexure to G.O.Rt.No.94, BCW(D) Dept., Dt.09.06.2022]

ANNEXURE-II

LIST OF DOCUMETNS BY WHICH THE ARTICLE OF CHARGES FRAMED AGAINST SMT.KHUSHBU KOTHARI, THE THEN DISTRICT BC WELFARE OFFICER, ELURU, WG DISTRICT AND PRESENTLY WORKING AS DEPUTY DIRECTOR(BCW), CHITTOOR DISTRICT:-

Lr.Roc.No.77/VC/2020(e-1793766), dt.03.04.2020 of the Collector & District Magistrate, West Godavari, Eluru.

G.ANANTHA RAMU
SPECIAL CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

//FORWARDED :: BY ORDER//

SECTION OFFICER

ANNEXURE-III

LIST OF WITNESSESS BY WHOM THE ARTICLE OF CHARGES FRAMED AGAINST SMT.KHUSHBU KOTHARI, THE THEN DISTRICT BC WELFARE OFFICER, ELURU, WG DISTRICT AND PRESENTLY WORKING AS DEPUTY DIRECTOR(BCW), CHITTOOR DISTRICT ARE PROPOSED TO BE SUSTAINED :

Nil

G.ANANTHA RAMU
SPECIAL CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

//FORWARDED :: BY ORDER//

SECTION OFFICER